

Maurice Hinchey NEWS

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TOWN OF BARTON RECEIVES \$3.8 MILLION FOR WATER AND SEWER IMPROVEMENTS

WASHINGTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development office has awarded the Town of Barton \$3,776,600 in grants and loans for improvements to its water and sewer systems. The improvements are expected to eliminate health hazards and help attract new businesses to the Town.

"These improvements are badly needed in the Town of Barton and they would not be possible without assistance from the federal government," said Hinchey. "I am very pleased that the Town is making good use of its partnership with USDA."

Both the water and sewer projects are located within the Tioga County Rural Economic Area Partnership (REAP) Zone, which was created in 1999 through an agreement between Hinchey, the Secretary of Agriculture and local leaders. As priorities of the Tioga REAP Zone, the Town of Barton's applications received discretionary points in the funding competition.

A grant of \$1,418,600 and a loan of \$705,700 will be used to establish a water district improvement area within the Town. In recent years the Tioga County Health Department has found evidence of coliform bacteria in water samples at several businesses and mobile home parks in the project area. A lack of water for private homes in the area has also been reported.

Improvements to the sewer system will be funded by a grant of \$659,900 and a loan of \$992,400. The purpose of this project is to provide sewage collection service to those residents not currently being served by the municipal system. The Tioga County Department of Health has expressed concern about the need for the private disposal systems of three mobile home parks to be expanded and the potential for this expansion to lead to the contamination of the Town of Waverly's water source.

The two projects, which received numerous letters of support from area businesses and service providers, will add 382 residential users and 34 commercial hook-ups to the proposed system.

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